

III. REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-30 are now pending in this application. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-6, 8-16, 18-23 and 25-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hansen et al., (US 2003/00142399), US Provisional Application 60/275,068 ("Hansen Provisional"); and claims 7, 17, 24 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Hansen Provisional in view of Niguyen et al. (US 6,721,729). Applicants have amended claims 1, 4-6, 8, 11, 18 and 25. Applicants submit that the pending claims are allowable and thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections for the reasons stated below.

Because Hansen et al., (US 2003/00142399) has a later filing date than the present application, Applicants are directing all remarks contained herein to the Hansen Provisional. Applicants have obtained a copy of US provisional application 60/275,068, on which the above rejections are based, and make reference to the provisional in these arguments. In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that a copy was not readily available; however, Applicants were able to readily obtain a copy from the Office without delay.

With regarding to independent claims 1, 11, 18 and 25, Applicants submit that the Hansen Provisional does not disclose each and every claimed feature of the current invention. For instance, claim 1 (and similarly claims 11, 18 and 25) recites "a visitation system for visiting a search result generated by the search system; and a nomination system for nominating a web

page, wherein the nomination system is independent from the visitation system.” Accordingly, Applicants provide: (1) a *visitation system*, e.g., a set of links that the user can follow to visit web pages identified in the search results; and a *nomination system*, i.e., a mechanism that allows the user to nominate web pages independent of the process of visiting the web pages. Thus, a nomination is distinct from the action of accessing a web page. Rather, because the nomination system is independent of the visitation system, the present invention allows the user to nominate a web page without ever visiting it.

The Hansen Provisional relies on the “behaviors” of previous users, namely what web sites they previously visited after doing a search, e.g., “tracking local tourist attractions selected by the user, etc.” (See Hansen Provisional, Section 3, pages 3-4, Mobile web searching.) In Section 5.1, the Hansen Provisional details the user experience which essentially includes: (1) specifying a query, (2) visiting a page from the search results, (3) visiting additional pages, and (4) moving on to new tasks. Nowhere does the Hansen Provisional teach or suggest nominating a web page using a system that is independent of a visitation. By sharp contrast, in the current invention, search results are listed by an order of a ranking, the ranking being based on at least one nomination previously made by a member of a user group.

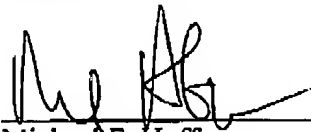
In view of the foregoing, the Hansen Provisional does not anticipate the independent claims and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

With regarding to the rejections of claims 7, 17, 24 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), claim 7 is dependent upon claim 1, claim 17 is dependent upon claim 11, claim 24 is dependent upon claim 18 and claim 30 is dependent upon claim 25. The dependent claims are believed

allowable for the same reasons stated above regarding those independent claims, as well as for their own additional features.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application as presented is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: _____

3/1/05

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